

REMARKS:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 13 and 16 are amended for clarification. Claim 14 has been cancelled without prejudice and claims 1-12 and 15 remain cancelled. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 13 and 16 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 13, 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable, claims 13 and 14 over U.S. Patent No. 6,308,164 ('164) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,557,515 ('515), and claim 16 over U.S. Patent No. 5,548,506 ('506) in view of '164.

'164 is directed to a system that allows creating, tracking, and reporting of the progress of a project toward reaching project goals.

'515 discusses a computerized system for work management where an initial transaction is electronically entered into a database and automatically linked with a work source index such that when work is performed on the case, the system tracks its progress and provides a variety of support functions.

'506 discusses a project management server system for managing multiple work-groups and multiple projects.

The present invention discloses an electronic review method to allow a user to approve or disapprove an assigned task by referencing stored information of previous task authorization results.

The Examiner compares the project management system of '164 for facilitating, planning and scheduling tasks for a project with the present invention's method of electronically authorizing or repudiating an electronically processed task. In '164, project management information including projects, project tasks, and system resources is input into a project management system to create and store project data objects in a primary database for establishing a project schedule to be used to monitor and report project progress (see, column 5, lines 32-42 of '164). The '164 tasks are defined in terms of the resources used, the task duration, and the order in which the task is performed relative to other tasks (see, column 5, lines 42-51 of '164). The project information created, modified, and validated in the '164 system is tasks of a project, sequence of the tasks, and system resources (see, column 5, lines 33-37

of '164). Thus, the '164 system is limited to scheduling tasks, coordinating the use of shared resources, and monitoring the progress of the tasks based upon input task status information, and does not teach or suggest a system for reviewing one's performance of the task.

The present invention is directed to reviewing (authorizing or repudiating) tasks to allow a user to efficiently review a completed task of another by referring to previously stored information. As recited in amended claim 13, the present invention stores "... a plurality of elements with respect to tasks to be electronically processed into a database subsequent to an electronic authorization and repudiation", where each of the plurality of elements include "a user identifier requesting an authorization and/or repudiation reasons ". Claim 13 further recites "retrieving said database for a task to be electronically authorized and for the user requesting authorization of said task" and "displaying retrieved repudiation reasons for the task and retrieved repudiation reasons for the user" where "a user authorizing the task is provided with information related to which part of the task to be electronically authorized should be reviewed". This is unlike the '164 system that is limited to centralized tracking of the progress of a task because the present invention is directed to storing and referencing elements of a task for determining "which part of the task to be electronically authorized should be reviewed". This allows a reviewer to quickly ascertain the parts of the task to be reviewed, thus, improving the efficiency and quality of the review process.

The Examiner acknowledges that '164 does not disclose, "displaying said plurality elements of the electronically processed task for each electronically processed task and for each user requesting authorization", but relies on '515 as providing the same. The '515 work management system displays information in relation to a work, such as overview of key activities associated with the work (activity log in FIG. 9A of '515), most recently undertaken activities or instructions to be followed (diary function in FIG. 9A of '515), etc. (see, column 4, line 66 through column 5, line 2, and column 5, lines 39-41 of '515). Accordingly, the '515 system is also directed to processing and tracking activities of a work in progress and does not teach or suggest a reviewing method of the work itself.

The combination of the '164 and '515 systems leads to a system for creating, tracking, and reporting of the progress of a project toward reaching project goals according to which an initial transaction is electronically entered into a database and automatically linked with a work source index so that system tracks the transaction's progress. The combination of the '164 and '515 systems does not teach or suggest, "storing a plurality of elements with respect to tasks to be electronically processed... each of said elements including a user identifier requesting an

authorization and repudiation reasons” such that “a user authorizing the task is provided with information related to which part of the task to be electronically authorized should be reviewed”.

It is respectfully asserted that claim 13 is patentable over the combination of ‘164 and ‘515.

Claim 16 recites, a method of reviewing tasks including “storing review information with respect to reviews of completed tasks associated with a particular person in charge of the tasks”, where “the stored review information including a user identifier requesting an authorization and/or repudiation reasons”. The method also includes, “comparing a current task for the person in charge of the tasks to the stored completed tasks for the person in charge of the tasks” and “providing a reviewer for the current task the review information for similar completed tasks where the review information indicates which part of the current task is to be reviewed”. This is unlike the ‘506 system where allocation of common resources are re-computed based on inter-project priorities and information related to completions of tasks (see, FIG. 9 and FIG. 7 of ‘506). The present invention is not limited to tracking resources and completion information of tasks, but also provides a method using which a reviewer efficiently reviews tasks based on review information for similar completed tasks.

The combination of the ‘164 and ‘515 systems results in a work management system enabling creation, tracking and reporting of data objects based upon predefined and validated categories where the system tracks and displays progress of the work. Thus, the combination of the ‘164 and ‘515 systems does not teach or suggest “providing a reviewer for the current task the review information” where “the review information indicates which part of the current task is to be reviewed”.

The combination of the ‘506 and ‘164 systems leads to a project management server system for managing multiple work-groups and multiple projects enabling creation, tracking, and reporting of the progress of a project toward reaching project goals.

The cited references are directed to achieving strategic organization and management of activities to monitor the progress of the activities, thus the combination of the cited references does not teach or suggest a method and system for reviewing tasks based on indication of “which part” of a current part is to be reviewed.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the

application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

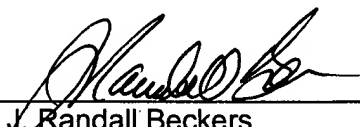
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 10/18/14

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